

Morning Lines - Feb 4

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Good Morning Minister,

Today we received questions about the following stories:

1. **Black caucus members & racism in the convoy**
2. **RCMP sending in more help to Ottawa**
3. **GoFundMe called to testify before committee**
4. **Cannabis seized at the border**
5. **Discrimination of Indigenous Police Services**

We are tracking the following stories:

RCMP Sending in More Help to Ottawa

<https://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/rcmp-sending-more-officers-to-help-police-ottawa-protest-1.5765689>

Background

- Following a statement from Minister Mendicino on Wednesday, the RCMP will be providing more support to the OPS.
- Additional RCMP officers will assist in policing the convoy and restoring civility to the downtown area and parliamentary precinct.

RCMP Lines

- **Ensuring the safety and security of Ottawa residents is our top priority.**
- **The RCMP will be sending in additional officers to assist the Ottawa Police services as they work to restore order in the downtown area and parliamentary precinct.**
- **The RCMP will continue to support the police of jurisdiction, the Ottawa Police Services, in enforcing the law.**
- **The RCMP will continue to support law enforcement to manage disruptions and ensure all residents and those who work in downtown Ottawa feel safe.**

Black Caucus Denounces Convoy

Background

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/convoy-covid-vaccines-ottawa-black-parliamentary-1.6338720>

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tCegnXw5SO8ApOQi6NQiJ05cX9_Me2a-/edit

- On Friday, the Black Parliamentary Caucus denounced the protest convoy, calling it a venue for "White Supremacists"

- "The 'Freedom Convoy' protest became an opportunity for white supremacists and others with extreme and disturbing views to parade their odious views in public," the Black parliamentary caucus said in [a news release Friday](#).
- Last weekend, convoys of several thousand truckers and other protestors gathered in Ottawa to oppose vaccine mandates for Truckers.
- RCMP have reported that a portion of protestors intend to remain for an unknown period of time.
- Many of these protestors are motivated by IMVE, as swastikas, confederate flags, and other symbols of hate were displayed, and monuments vandalized.
- So far, 3 protestors have been arrested. OPS chief Sloly said that more charges are to come.

Black Caucus Denouncement Lines

- Hatred, racism and violence have no place in our country.
- We stand in support of Black parliamentary caucus members who have labelled the convoy as a "venue for white supremacists."
- We will work with the police of jurisdiction to ensure that all Canadians feel safe from discrimination and harassment in our capital city.

High Level Convoy Lines

- Our government will always support the right to peaceful protest in Canada – but we will also always condemn violence and threats.
- These demonstrations have caused significant disruption to local businesses and community organizers, vandalism of our national war monuments, and blatant expressions of hate and incitement to violence.
- All elected officials must denounce this conduct as an affront to our democracy
- Local police are taking steps to remove obstructions, clear routes and restore safe access to the downtown core and parliamentary precinct
- We will continue to take whatever steps are necessary to keep the protest peaceful, ensure safe access downtown, and that those participating in the demonstration abide by the law, and respect local residents.
- Federal public safety partners will continue to support local police to ensure public safety.

If pressed - IMVE

- Our government will always support the right to peaceful protest in Canada – but we will also always condemn violence and threats.
- We are deeply concerned about the small number of vocal extremists opposition that is polluting much of our political debate.
- ideologically motivated violent extremism is "our most deadly extremist threat."
- The Parliamentary Protective Service and local police will respond to any issues as necessary, and our national law enforcement and security agencies are continuously monitoring potential threats.

Coutts Blockade

<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/en/2022/02/04/242695483>

Background

- On Friday, the RCMP confirmed that a second blockade has been set up just north of the POE.
- Traffic has reportedly been moving slowly through.
- Other POEs in the area have extended their hours to mitigate the congestion.

High level

- We are closely monitoring the ongoing situation at Coutts.
- While the Port of Entry itself is unaffected, a key stretch of Alberta Highway 4 just north of the border has been blockaded.
- On Wednesday, the RCMP confirmed that two lanes on highway 4 just north of the port of entry had been opened. However, a second blockade has since been set up 15 km north of Milk river.
- The Government of Alberta is primarily responsible for the situation, while the federal government is coordinating closely and Minister Mendicino is in touch with his provincial counterparts.
- On Tuesday, the CBSA expanded opening hours at the Carway and Del Bonita, AB crossings to help travelers and trade keep moving.
- The Alberta RCMP – as the local police of jurisdiction – are managing the situation. We thank them for their tireless efforts in the face of significant challenges.

Additional on the impact of the blockade

- The Coutts-Sweetgrass Border Crossing is among the most important in Western Canada, and a massive amount of goods – including perishable food and live animals – are currently stuck on both sides of the border.
- While we support peaceful protests, this illegal blockade poses serious risks.
- Local residents can't leave their town or be reached by emergency services, while hundreds of truckers are stuck in dangerous conditions, without access to food, water or restrooms.
- The blockade also is causing serious issues for a wide array of other businesses across the West who rely on the crossing to get their goods to market.

GoFundMe Campaign

- Canada has zero tolerance for hate and violent extremism.
- We support the committee on public safety and national security's decision to call officials from GoFundMe to testify.
- We are aware that GoFundMe has paused the convoy's crowdfunding campaign as these inquiries continue.

Discrimination of Indigenous Police

<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/en/2022/02/04/242695887>

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec/indigenous-police-services-poor-funding-is-discrimination-human-rights-tribunal-rules>

Background

- The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal has found that members of the PekuakamiInuatsh First Nation in the Lac-Saint-Jean region were victims of discrimination from Public Safety Canada in regards to underfunding or its police service.
- The tribunal concluded that the complaint was founded and there was “unfavourable treatment” and discrimination in providing a public service “because of race and national or ethnic origin.”
- The federal government has 30 days to appeal the judgment. It had tried to argue that the tribunal does not have jurisdiction to hear the complaint.

Lines

- All Canadian police forces play an important role in keeping our communities safe, and we thank them for their tireless efforts.
- We are upset by the human rights tribunal’s decision regarding Quebec’s Indigenous police services.
- We will work with our partners to implement all necessary reforms and ensure that the Indigenous police receive equitable funding and support.

Cannabis Seizure

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/thousands-of-kilograms-of-cannabis-are-being-seized-at-the-border-1.5766516>

Background

- Data published online by the CBSA shows that seizures have jumped from nearly 500 kilograms in the 2017-18 fiscal year to nearly 11,800 kilograms in 2020-21, a more than 2,200 per cent increase.
- CBSA said cannabis items are being detected with "increasing frequency" in commercial shipments, which include air, marine, rail and highway cargo, as well as courier and postal.
- a CBSA spokesperson said “This can be partly attributed to a rise in e-commerce volumes, which has intensified with the pandemic.”

Lines

- Canada has zero tolerance for drug trafficking.
- Our government continues to crack down on this illegal activity, which is why in the last Parliament, we gave Canada’s border service officers greater flexibility to inspect suspicious international mail among other measures.
- CBSA will continue to work with our international partners to reduce the cross-border flows of all illegal substances.

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